



Town of Camden
Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
March 6, 2012
7:00pm

6

PRESENT: Chairperson Martin Cates, John French, Jr., James Heard, Donald White, and Town Manager Finnigan. Also present were members of the press and public.

ABSENT: Vice Chairperson Morgan Laidlaw

1. Call to Order

2. Citizen Comments

Gian-Angelo Gallace spoke about an LPG storage tank being proposed for Searsport. He said that if there is a spill from the tank, the gas will flow into Camden Harbor. He also spoke about LD 1810, the "Takings" bill currently before the legislature, which would allow landowners to claim compensation if new environmental regulations impinged upon their property values. He quoted Section 851, Subsection 4 of the proposed bill, explaining that if passed the bill could make it difficult for municipalities to enforce any state environmental mandate without having to compensate landowners.

Alex Arau addressed the Board on behalf of the Camden Food Pantry regarding a proposal to hold an event on the Village Green on July 4, 2012. He said their organization had been running in the red and described their idea to raise money, gather cans of food for the Pantry, and spread awareness. Martin Cates recommended that the Town Manager research other events going on over the July 4th holiday in order to make sure there would be no conflicts before the Town commits to the use of the Village Green. John French suggested that the Village Green sign policy should also be checked. The item will be placed on the March 20th agenda.

There were no further Citizen Comments and the floor was opened to comments from the Board.

Don White commended Citizens for a Green Camden which was recently selected from more than 100 nominees to receive one of the Toxics Action Center's 25 Years of Victories Awards. White said that local residents Marsha Smith, Patrisha McLean, Molly Stone, Amy Dietrich, Laurie Wolfrum, Louisa Enright, and Harry Smith won this award for their leadership in the 2008 effort to protect the environment and the health of people in Camden by limiting exposure to pesticides.

James Heard said he had been the first in Camden to be approved for a PACE loan through Efficiency Maine. He encouraged others to participate, saying the program can help people increase the energy efficiency of their homes.

51 3. **Approval of Board Minutes**

52
53 *John French made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 21, 2012 meeting of the*
54 *Board. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*
55

56 4. **Consent Agenda**

57
58 The Board considered the Consent Agenda:

59
60 a) Approval of taxicab business license for Christopher Merritt d/b/a/ Schooner Bay Taxi

61
62 b) Approval of a 2012 Commercial Fisherman Dock Application for Toby Winckhofer

63
64 *John French made a motion to approve items a. and b. of the Consent Agenda. The motion was*
65 *seconded by Don White. It was approved unanimously.*
66

67 5. **Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions**

68
69 a) Sign Working Group's proposed revisions to the Town Directional Signage

70
71 Dick Householder presented a report from the Sign Working Group of the Planning Board,
72 which is comprised of Planning Board members, Downtown Business people, Select Board
73 liaison Don White, and Steve Wilson. He began by stating that Committee's charter was to
74 review Camden's existing sign ordinances and various ideas and concepts concerning town
75 directional signage and business signs. The Working Group had found that the existing sign
76 ordinance needed no revisions.
77

78 He then presented the Sign Working Group's proposal for improvements to Camden's
79 parking and directional signage. He told the Board that the current proposal for additional
80 signage is in compliance with the existing sign ordinance as well as the Downtown Master
81 Plan.
82

83 Householder said that the group is recommending that ten parking signs be placed in the
84 following eight locations:

85
86 One (1) sign on the corner of Union St. and Elm St. with a white reflective arrow pointing
87 towards Free St.
88

89 Two (2) signs attached to a single pole on the corner of Free St. and Mechanic St. One (1) sign
90 facing west on Mechanic St. with an arrow pointing down Mechanic St. and the another sign
91 facing Free St. with a white reflective arrow pointing to the right on Free St.
92

93 One (1) sign attached to a single pole on the corner of Mechanic St. and Washington St. facing
94 west with an arrow pointing east on Mechanic St. and another arrow pointing to the left on
95 Washington St.
96

One (1) sign attached to a single pole on the corner of Washington St. and Mechanic St facing Washington St. with a white reflective arrow pointing north on Washington St.

One (1) sign on the corner of Bay View Street and Commercial Street with an arrow pointing down towards the Public Landing.

Two (2) signs on a single pole on Main St. and Atlantic Ave. with one (1) sign facing south on Main St. and a white reflective arrow pointing to the right on Atlantic Ave. The second sign would be attached behind the first sign and also facing south with a white reflective arrow pointing to the left on Atlantic Ave.

One (1) sign on a single pole on Atlantic Ave. next to the boat company driveway with a white reflective arrow pointing left to the Library driveway.

One (1) sign facing north on a single pole on the corner of Main St. and Central St. with a white reflective arrow pointing south to the downtown area.

In addition, Householder continued, the group is recommending that five Directional Signs be placed to indicate the Harbor Business District, the River Business District, and the Lake Recreation District, as well as Welcome to Camden signs in two locations. There would be an additional Lake Recreation District sign placed on Route 52 near the entrance to Barrett's Cove. Informational Kiosks are being planned as well, to be located on Mechanic Street and the Public Landing. The current proposal before the Select Board, however, only covers the Parking and Directional signs, he said. Householder concluded by saying that the total cost for the proposed signs would be \$3,283.95.

John French asked if tour buses that parked in the area along the Village Green could obstruct the Parking Sign placed there. Cates asked if the sign on Route 52 pointing toward Barrett's Cove could also direct visitors to the parking lot at the base of the hiking trail. James Heard asked how we would know whether or not the signs were working, and Steve Wilson suggested that a barometer will be the level of use of local parking lots. Jan McKinnon noted that downtown businesspeople will also be able to judge whether they get fewer questions from visitors asking about directions. Ray Andresen suggested that a one-way sign be considered for Atlantic Avenue.

Don White asked if a fund existed where money had been set aside to fund the signs. Town Manager Finnigan responded by saying that Public Works has a sign budget, and that permission regarding funding the signs would be coming back to the Select Board for a vote.

Martin Cates said he liked the plan and was pleased that the community had had input. Don White noted that the Sign Committee had worked in unison from the beginning. John French suggested that downtown businesspeople park in satellite lots to keep parking spaces open for visitors.

Down White made a motion that the proposal from the Sign Working Group be accepted as presented. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

6. Select Board Member Reports

James Heard told the Board that he had attended the Harbor Committee meeting the previous week where a dockage application had been considered.

John French said that he planned to attend the Knox County Budget meeting on March 15th. Other Select Board members who were present said they would be attending the Camden Budget Meeting that will be held the same night. It was noted that Randy Stearns is planning to attend the Knox County Budget Meeting to represent Camden.

John French made a motion that Randy Stearns be excused from the March 15, 2012 Camden Budget Meeting in order to represent Camden in his official capacity at the Knox County Budget Meeting. James Heard seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

There was some discussion among Board members on the Knox County Budget matter.

Don White reported on the February 23rd meeting of the Gateway One Corridor Coalition where nine of the fifteen active communities were represented. The new Town Manager of Damariscotta gave a presentation, and the group voted to support Damariscotta/Newcastle's TIGER IV application to improve sidewalks and parking. White reported that there was also an update at the meeting on the Bus Committee's efforts to explore bus service between Camden and Thomaston, and that the Coalition had discussed supporting the Cardin-Cochran Amendment to the Transportation Bill. They had agreed to use Midcoast Economic Development District funds to create an inventory of projects to be used to seek funding/assistance in the future, and lastly the group had voted on officers to serve through December of 2012. Don White will continue to serve as Chair of the group.

Next White gave a report on the Planning Board meeting held February 29th to review the Findings of Fact regarding the Kirill residential pier application. At the meeting the Planning Board had also approved the Sign Working Group's directional and parking study recommendations, he said.

White reported that he had attended the Camden Opera House Committee meeting on March 5th where they had approved the fiscal year 2013 budget as well as the new Mission Statement. The committee had also reviewed the updated plans and the budget for the 3rd floor renovations. The cost estimate for the project is \$263,000, he said.

7. Town Manager Report

Pat Finnigan said that the first Camden Budget Meeting was not held due to weather, and that future budget meetings would take place every Thursday at 7pm for the remainder of the month. She noted that the staff had done a wonderful job of working with her to make

sure everything was included, with the goal of keeping the budget as low as possible. She said she understands that we are still in a weak economy, and yet there are things that need to be taken care of such as infrastructure, so it is always challenging to keep that balance. She hopes it will be a participatory budget process and said she is working hard to make sure that people understand where their tax money goes. She asked the Board to pass on budget-related questions they may hear from citizens as the process moves forward.

8. **Old Business**

There was no old business.

9. **New Business**

a) Public Hearing

A public hearing was opened by Chairman Cates to consider the following items:

- 1) Application of 57 Bay View Bar & Bistro at 57 Bay View Street for a renewal liquor license
- 2) Application of Lord Camden Inn at 24 Main Street for a renewal liquor license
- 3) Application of Whitehall Inn at 52 High Street for a renewal liquor license
- 4) Application of Fresh at 1 Bay View Landing for a renewal liquor license
- 5) Application of Fresh at 1 Bay View Landing for a renewal special amusement permit

There were no comments from the public on these items.

John French made a motion to approve the five applications as presented. Don White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

b) Bid Award: 2012 Shade Tree Planting Program

Town Manager Finnigan said that the Shade Tree Planting Program had been going on for a number of years and was a joint project with the Camden Garden Club. Costs for the trees are split into thirds between the Town, the Garden Club, and the property owner. She announced that this year the Town has received a Project Canopy Grant from the State in the amount of \$8,000 which will allow more trees to be planted. Four bids had been received for the planting work and had been reviewed by the Town Manager and the Town Tree Warden. The Town Manager explained that it was the staff's recommendation to reject the bids because details in the bid requests had not been specific enough for the bids to reflect the needs of the program. The Town Manager asked that the Board authorize her to negotiate with the company the Town has been working with for years on this project.

John French made a motion to deny the bids that had been submitted for services for the Shade Tree Planting Program. The motion was seconded by James Heard. The motion was passed unanimously.

c) Request that the Parks and Recreation Committee review potential opportunities to expand and enhance recreational uses at Shirttail Park and report their recommendations to the Select Board

Town Manager Finnigan said that the Town owns a parcel of land on Washington Street and that only a small portion of the property is being used as part of the park. She said that with the sidewalk being extended up to Shirttail Park, the Town has the opportunity to make the land available to the public. The first step, she said, would be for the Parks and Recreation Committee to consider this and to make recommendations to the Select Board. She noted that Parks and Recreation may want to include the Conservation Committee in the project.

Martin Cates asked Ray Andresen of the Parks and Recreation Committee how the Committee would feel about taking this on. Andresen responded by saying that the Committee would be happy to formulate some recommendations and may involve the Pathways Committee as well as the Conservation Commission. He asked if there was a timeline, and Chairman Cates responded that June 30th was the date for recommendations that they would recommend. He added that while recommendations for work on the land this summer should fit into the current Parks and Recreation budget, the committee could formulate mid- and long-term recommendations as well. Don White asked if the Town should ask neighbors for input, and Andresen responded that the committee would do so. It was noted that sidewalk construction project was slated for 2013.

John French made a motion to request that the Parks and Recreation Committee review potential opportunities to expand and enhance recreational uses at Shirttail Park and report their preliminary recommendations to the Select Board by June 30, 2012. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

d) Election of members to the Executive Board of the Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission

The Select Board had been asked to vote for up to six members to serve on the Executive Board of the Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission. The following individuals had been nominated:

3 Year Term:

Patrick Florance, South Thomaston Select Board member

2 Year Term

David Kalloch, Rockland CEO

1 Year Term

Jonathan Eaton, Thomaston Select Board member

Pat Finnigan, Camden Town Manager

Larry Pritchett, Rockland City Councilor

Mary Jane West, Union resident

John French made a motion to recommend the six individuals who had been nominated to serve on the Executive Board of the Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission. Don White seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

e) Appointment of Voting Member to the Maine Service Center Coalition

John French made a motion to appoint Town Manager Pat Finnigan as the Town of Camden's

voting delegate to the Maine Service Center Coalition and Select Board Chair Martin Cates as the designated alternate. James Heard seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

10. Select Board Closing Comments

There were no closing comments.

11. Adjourn as Select Board

Don White made a motion to adjourn as Select Board and reconvene as Wastewater Commissioners. The motion was seconded by John French and unanimously approved.

Wastewater Commissioners

Pat Finnigan said that the Town had received renewal applications from five Master Drain Layers who had worked previously with the Town. Camden Wastewater Superintendent Ross Parker had recommended approval of the applications.

John French made a motion to approve the Master Drain Layers' license applications as recommended by the Wastewater Superintendent. James Heard seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Adjourn

James Heard made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Wastewater Commissioners. Don White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The meeting of the Wastewater Commissioners was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary